

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMBELL:WGBOWDLER:PAL

APPROVED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH

S/AB:AMB. BUNKER

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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INFO GOV PAN CANAL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BOGOTA MFM DECIDED THAT ONE OF THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION. HOW THE SECRETARY WILL HANDLE THIS MATTER WITH HIS LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COLLEAGUES REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT AND WILL BE CONTINGENT ON RESULTS OF BUNKER-TACK TALKS WHICH START NEXT WEEK. IN THE MEANTIME SHOULD YOU RUN INTO QUESTIONS ABOUT CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, YOU MAY USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REPLYING:

2. BEGIN QUOTE THE DESIGNATION OF AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ELLSWORTH BUNKER, ONE OF THE U.S. MOST ILLUSTRIOUS DIPLOMATS, TO CONDUCT THE PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THIS COUNTRY ATTACHES TO THE CONCLUSION,
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AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, OF AN ENTIRELY NEW, MODERNIZED

TREATY RELATIONSHIP WHICH RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA AND THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. AMBASSADOR BUNKER WILL TRAVEL TO PANAMA ON NOVEMBER 26 TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA. HIS FIRST VISIT WILL BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO LISTENING TO AND LEARNING FROM PANAMANIAN LEADERS, AND TO FAMILIARIZING HIMSELF WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANAL. THE VISIT WILL FORM THE BASE FROM WHICH TO PROCEED SUBSEQUENTLY WITH SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN THIS NEGOTIATION THE ISSUES ARE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AND TECHNICALLY COMPLEX, SO THAT AGREEMENT WILL NOT COME QUICKLY NOR EASILY. BUT THE UNITED STATES, FOR ITS PART, IS INTENT ON REACHING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT WITH PANAMA WHICH WILL ENSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE CANAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND OF THE WORLD. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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